

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim 15 [[1]] wherein the locking device includes:

[[□]] a rod connected with the second joint and movable on the first joint, the rod defines several dents; and

[[□]] a latch movable on the first joint between a releasing position where the latch is away from the rod and a locking position where the latch is in one of the dents so as to lock the seat in one of the several reclined positions relative to the post.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim [[2]] 12 wherein the rod and the latch are movable in transverse directions.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim [[2]] 12 wherein the locking device includes a mount installed on the first joint, and the rod is movably installed on the mount.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim [[2]] 12 wherein the locking device includes a handle for maneuvering the latch.

Claim 6 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the locking device includes a linkage connected between the latch and the handle.

Claim 7 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the linkage includes a shaft connected with the latch, and the handle extends transversely from the shaft.

Claim 8 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the linkage includes a V-shaped lever pivotal on the first joint, and the V-shaped lever includes a first end linked to the latch and a second end linked to the shaft.

Claim 9 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the linkage includes a link connected between the shaft and the second end of the V-shaped lever.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim [[1]] 12 including a pin for pivotally connecting the second joint with the first joint.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim [[2]] 15 including a pin connected between the second joint and the rod.

Claim 12 (currently amended): [[The]] A reclining apparatus according for use between a post and a seat of a chair, the reclining apparatus comprising a first joint for attachment to claim 11 the post;

a second joint pivotally connected with the first joint for supporting the seat;
a locking device for locking the second joint in one of several reclined positions

relative to the casing, wherein the locking device includes:

a rod connected with the second joint and movable on the first joint, the rod defines several dents, and

a latch movable on the first joint between a releasing position where the latch is away from the rod and a locking position where the latch is in one of the dents so as to lock the seat in one of the several reclined positions relative to the post; and

a pin connected between the second joint and the rod, wherein the first joint defines two arched slots for receiving two ends of the pin.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim [[1]] 12 including a tuning device for tuning the reclined positions of the second joint.

Claim 14 (original): A reclining apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the tuning device includes at least one spring connected with the second joint, a screw connected with the spring and non-rotationally installed on the first joint and a nut engaged with the screw and rotationally installed on the first joint so that screwing of the nut on the screw causes the pivotal of the second joint relative to the first joint.

Claim 15 (currently amended): [[The]] A reclining apparatus according for use between a post and a seat of a chair, the reclining apparatus comprising a first joint for attachment to claim 14 the post, a second joint pivotally connected with the first joint for supporting the seat, a locking device for locking the second joint in one of several reclined positions relative to the casing, and a tuning device for tuning the reclined positions of the second joint, wherein the tuning device includes at least one spring connected with the second joint; a screw connected with the spring and non-rotationally installed on the first joint; a nut engaged with the screw and rotationally installed on the first joint so that screwing of the nut on the screw causes the pivotal of the second joint relative to the first joint; and a worm rotationally installed on the first joint, and the nut is a nut/gear engaged with the screw internally and engaged with the worm externally.

Claim 16 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the tuning device includes a crank extending transversely from the worm.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim [[1]] 12 wherein the post is a hydraulic cylinder.

Claim 18 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 17 including a lifting device for controlling the hydraulic cylinder.

Claim 19 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the lifting device includes a lever pivotally installed on the first joint, and the lever includes a first end

for contact with the hydraulic cylinder and a second end to be maneuvered.

Claim 20 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the lifting device includes a shaft rotationally installed on the lateral walls of the casing and connected with the second end of the lever.

Claim 21 (new): The reclining apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the first joint defines two arched slots for receiving two ends of the pin.